

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

R.A. KAUTER CIA

Memorandum for the Record

11 March 1975

SUBJECT: Returnee ~~_____~~ Comments Regarding 8 January 1973
Helicopter Crash in Quang Tri (U)

1. (U) In his debrief, ~~_____~~, stated that prior to 27 Jan 73 he had read an article in the North Vietnamese News Agency about the shooting down of a helicopter. He thought the names Lauterio, Dean, and Stinson were familiar to him in association with the article. (Others aboard the helicopter were Wilson, Bush, and Knutson.) He stated that Purcell and ~~_____~~ had read the article, also, but neither makes mention of it in his debrief.
2. (U) Today I called ~~_____~~ to further question him regarding this article.
3. (C) Purcell mentioned the North Vietnamese News Agency in his debrief and stated that it was a mimeographed news sheet which contained news releases from Radio Hanoi and extracts from North Vietnamese newspapers. ~~_____~~ confirmed this and added that the publication was a periodical given to the PWs more or less on a weekly basis. He remembers reading the article about mid-January 1973 and that the article described a helicopter shootdown about five days or a week before the publication date. (Dean and five others were lost on 8 Jan 73.) Although he has difficulty remembering for sure, ~~_____~~ impression was that the place of shootdown was in the "Naghan" (phonetic) area, which he described as the North Vietnamese portion of the DMZ region. When I asked him if his debrief was accurate in stating that he recalled the names Lauterio, Dean, and Stinson from the article, he said that it is difficult now for him to recall exactly which names because his discussions of this case since his release has clouded his recollection of what he remembered at release. He does, however, remember that all the names did not sound familiar at the time. In regards to any statements in the article on the fate of the six men, he recalls that the article alluded to one or two wounded, but there was no mention of the others. He was left with the impression that the others were neither wounded or killed.
4. (U) ~~_____~~ offered that ~~_____~~ has a fantastic memory and would therefore be a good contact to further pursue this matter.


GARY C. KOBLITZ

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Enc 14 (S-70,098/DB-4)